



# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **CITY ATTORNEY CHALLENGES KPBS TO EMBRACE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY; WITHDRAWS PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST**

**San Diego, CA**—After speaking with the director of the California First Amendment Coalition, City Attorney Michael Aguirre is withdrawing his California Public Records Act request to San Diego State University's KPBS for information related to the cancellation of the station's only daily television public affairs show "Full Focus." KPBS is a public radio and television station affiliated with SDSU, a public university, which receives public monies and raises funds from members of the public and corporations.

"This morning, I spoke with Mr. Peter Scheer of the California First Amendment Coalition, who was quoted in today's Union-Tribune newspaper. He suggested that I withdraw my request for records and instead, challenge KPBS to release the records in the interest of public accountability," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre. "And that's exactly what I am doing."

The City Attorney also spoke with Lucy Dalglish, executive director of The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, who was also quoted in today's Union-Tribune.

"Ms. Dalglish told me the Union-Tribune reporter misinformed her by stating that the City Attorney's Office might be issuing a search warrant," said the City Attorney. "After better understanding the reason for the City Attorney's request, Ms. Dalglish agreed that the California Public Records Act was an appropriate tool to utilize in seeking the KPBS records."

At a new conference this afternoon, the City Attorney reiterated that the public has a right to know and understand the policies and practices of KPBS because of the public monies that are raised to underwrite the cost and production of programming.

Today's U-T article disclosed that the Copley Family and its Foundation, owners of the Union-Tribune newspaper, contributed \$2 million to help build KPBS's building which is located on the campus of San Diego State. The newspapers' website, [SignonSanDiego.com](http://SignonSanDiego.com), also has an on-going corporate sponsorship of KPBS.

"The public has a right to know what relationship KPBS has with the U-T," said City Attorney Aguirre. "And does that financial relationship influence KPBS' editorial decision-making?"

(MORE)

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KPBS is a member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and must adhere to PBS's Editorial Standards and Policies. It has the responsibility to maintain this public trust of the airwaves by producing diverse public affairs programming that "reflects the pluralism of our society," and is "not dominated by any single point of view," while shielding the programming process from "political pressure or improper influence from funders or other sources."

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press was established in 1970 and is a nonprofit organization based in Arlington, Virginia. The California First Amendment Coalition based in San Francisco is a nonprofit organization "dedicated to advancing free speech and open-government rights."

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